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Report on the ninth session (19-23 March 2007)

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Summary

The present report contains the main findings and recommendations of the ninth session of the Committee for Development Policy, held at United Nations Headquarters from 19 to 23 March 2007. The Committee addressed three themes: climate change and sustainable development; strengthening the international partnership for effective poverty reduction; and the procedure for inclusion of countries in and graduation from the list of least developed countries.

With regard to the first theme, the Committee emphasizes that the earth is only a few decades away from crossing the threshold levels of temperature rise beyond which dramatic impacts are to be expected. Climate change is already adversely affecting socio-economic development, especially in the most vulnerable developing countries. So far, the response to the threat of climate change has been inadequate, and there is an urgent need for raising the mitigation and adaptation efforts to an entirely different level. The Committee holds the view that post-Kyoto arrangements will have to adopt a simultaneous two-track approach: the first will aim at very deep cuts of emissions by developed countries; and the second should provide a more central role to developing countries by enabling them to grow faster and to make the growth as less carbonized and as decarbonized as possible through the successful implementation of appropriate climate-friendly development strategies with the necessary technological and financial cooperation from developed countries. The Committee considers that the Millennium Development Goals need to be revised in order to take into account the important role of climate change in development. The Committee also emphasizes that the issue of climate change needs to be moved up on the agenda of the Economic and Social Council. The efforts relating to climate change by United Nations agencies, national Governments, the private sector and other civil society organizations need to be discussed and coordinated within the Council's new architecture. Finally, the Committee stresses that further efforts are necessary to develop an appropriate conceptual and policy framework combining fast economic growth with low carbon emissions for developing countries.

With regard to the second theme, the Committee observes that progress has been made towards developing a global partnership in support of national poverty reduction strategies. It, however, holds the view that the existing framework of the global partnership, using the poverty reduction strategy papers as the main instrument, appears to be neither adequate nor effective. The Committee stresses the importance for the donor community to allow aid recipient countries to be able to choose from a range of policies, the national policy space, in accordance with their economic, social and cultural conditions for effective growth and poverty reduction. The existing modality of global partnership and monetary and fiscal benchmarks agreed between the donor and recipient needs to be aligned with truly national strategies. At the same time, the international community at large needs to ensure that the negotiations of the Doha Round of the World Trade Organization are consistent with poverty reduction objectives and that national trade policy in developed and developing countries does not conflict with development assistance priorities. The Committee recommends that the Economic and Social Council seek an improved international partnership for poverty eradication, in general, and emphasizes the need to develop a framework that entails less stringent policy conditionality on recipient countries, in particular.

As to the third theme, the Committee provides an elaboration of the procedures to be used and clarifies the steps to be followed in relation to the inclusion of countries in and graduation from the list of least developed countries, consistent with practices approved by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. The proposed refinements to the procedures are intended to enhance and facilitate communications between countries under review and the Committee.

[16 April 2007]

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Matters calling for action by the Council

Recommendation 1: climate change

1. Recognizing the fact that climate change is already adversely affecting socio-economic development, especially in the most vulnerable developing countries, and that the Earth might be only a few decades away from crossing threshold levels of temperature rise beyond which drastic impacts on human society must be expected, the Committee for Development Policy recommends to the Economic and Social Council that it undertake a number of important initiatives aimed at accelerating the emergence of an effective, widely supported, adequate and fairly shared international response to the challenges posed by climate change, including:

(a) Initiate a process for revision of the Millennium Development Goals so that these may more appropriately reflect the threat posed by climate change on all development goals, including poverty reduction;

(b) Contribute to the post-Kyoto process by providing within the Council's new architecture a platform for an overarching policy dialogue integrating climate within the development agenda, bringing together representatives of different United Nations agencies, national ministries (including those related to economic development, finance, trade and industry, in addition to natural resources and environment), the private sector and other societal groups (including the poor, indigenous people and women).

Recommendation 2: poverty reduction strategies

2. Recognizing that important progress has been made towards developing a global partnership in support of national poverty reduction strategies, the Committee for Development Policy notes that the existing framework for such partnerships has significant deficiencies that limit its effectiveness. In this regard, the Committee recommends to the Economic and Social Council that it:

(a) Engage through its special high-level meetings with international financial and trade institutions and the Development Cooperation Forum in seeking improved international partnerships for poverty eradication, and facilitate dialogue among its member States and between them and the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund on best ways to develop a framework that entails less stringent policy conditionality on recipient countries, either by improving the existing poverty reduction strategy paper framework, or by defining an alternative process to strengthen the national ownership of recipient countries in building and implementing effective poverty reduction strategies;

(b) Urge its members to ensure that all initiatives concerning developing countries (including the completion of the Doha Round) are consistent with the objectives of the international development agenda and do not compromise the policy space and autonomy of developing countries in pursuing their own development goals. The latter would comprise all economic and social policies

aimed at strengthening developing countries' production, export and development capacities and enhancing the well-being of their citizens.

Recommendation 3: guidelines regarding the status as least developed countries

3. The Committee for Development Policy proposes additional guidelines on the process by which inclusion in, and graduation of countries from, the list of least developed countries is undertaken, in order to clarify and enhance the transparency of the existing procedures. The Committee requests the Economic and Social Council to endorse these guidelines as a further clarification of the framework laid out in General Assembly resolution 59/209 and earlier resolutions related to the work of the Committee in this respect.

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

1. Future work of the Committee on climate change

4. The Economic and Social Council may wish to take into account the work of the Committee for Development Policy on the analysis of linkages and synergies between climate change and development and encourage the Committee to undertake the urgent elaboration of a policy framework based on a two-track approach. Such an approach would aim at substantial reductions of emissions by developed countries and provide a more central role to developing countries by enabling them to make their development truly sustainable.

2. Monitoring of partnerships for poverty reduction

5. The Committee for Development Policy recommends to the Economic and Social Council, that it closely monitor, through its annual ministerial reviews, the implementation of the existing and improved poverty reduction strategy papers and the national development strategies advocated in the United Nations system in order to identify the most effective modality of international partnership for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and that it also monitor, through the Development Cooperation Forum, the fulfilment of the commitments endorsed by the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.

Chapter II
Climate change and sustainable development

A. Introduction

1. Climate change is the most serious emerging threat that, if not confronted properly, may soon disrupt life on this planet. Climate change, manifested in the rise of the earth's mean temperature, is already taking its toll in the form of widespread melting of glaciers, rise in sea level, extreme weather patterns and other adverse phenomena, as documented by the recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.[1] The adverse effects of climate change are proving and will prove particularly severe for developing countries because of their (a) geographical location, (b) reliance on climate-related economic activities (such as agriculture), and (c) weak coping capability.

2. The report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change also confirmed that concentrations of greenhouse gases (GHGs) have increased markedly as a result of human activities, with global increases in carbon dioxide due primarily to fossil fuel use and land use change. There is no other way to stop the process of climate change than to undertake deep cuts in GHG emissions.

3. The main initiative in stopping climate change has to come from developed countries, which are largely responsible for the increase in the GHG concentration in the earth's atmosphere over the last 200 years. The industrialized countries have to engage in a fundamental rethinking of their production and consumption patterns and lifestyle in order to implement the deep cuts in GHG emissions required to stop the process of climate change. The Stern review[2] shows that the costs of climate change could be dramatic, and yet determined action from now on can enable mankind to avoid these costs at a reasonable expense.

4. While the main responsibility for cutting emissions lies with developed countries, developing countries have a vital interest in climate change not only because of its more adverse effects on them, but also because of the important role developing countries can play in mitigating climate change.

5. The recommendations of the Committee for Development Policy in the present chapter aim at furthering the quest for how to make development sustainable in the face of climate change and what roles both developing countries and developed countries have to play in this regard. In this respect, the report points to several directions in which fruitful research can be conducted under the auspices of the Committee and the Economic and Social Council. The Committee recognizes the important work being done on climate change related issues under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, by the Commission on Sustainable Development and by other United Nations agencies, including the United Nations Environment Programme, and points to the necessity of the Council playing a leading role in coordinating the efforts by United Nations agencies,

[1] Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis: Summary for Policy Makers* (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2007).

[2] Nicholas Stern, *The economics of climate change: the Stern review* (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2007).

Governments of member countries, and other civic, non-governmental and people's organizations.

B. The greenhouse challenge

6. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,[3] the earth's temperature is rising because of human interference, and further temperature increases contain the threat of catastrophic consequences. The scientific community has long considered an increase of 2° C above the pre-industrial level as a threshold beyond which dramatic changes are likely to take place.[4] Yet the danger is that mutually reinforcing effects of global warming may take the world to a temperature increase of 3° C or higher very soon.[5] A temperature increase of 3° C or more may lead to melting of the Greenland ice sheet, which in turn may cause the sea level to rise by up to 7 metres, thus inundating many low-lying densely populated countries and large coastal cities all over the world. The worst impact will fall on developing countries, and particularly on the small island developing States, many of which will be completely submerged. Within developing countries, the most affected will be the poor, who have to rely more on climate-related activities for their livelihood, who are more exposed to the elements of nature and who have the least resources to cope. Climate change will thus wreak havoc precisely on those nations and people who are the least responsible for its cause.

7. The main factor in anthropogenic climate change is the emission of GHGs associated with economic activities. The most important GHG is carbon dioxide (CO_2), which currently constitutes 77 per cent of the global warming potential. Carbon concentration in the atmosphere has increased from 280 parts per million (ppm) in 1900 to the current 430 ppm, and it is increasing by 2 to 3 ppm per year. Climate models indicate that a concentration level of 450 ppm is likely to result in a 2 degree temperature increase, while 550 ppm is associated with a 3 degree increase. Under current trends, these thresholds are very likely to be crossed in one and three decades respectively. This demonstrates the urgency of initiating action to sharply reduce GHG emissions.

8. Most of the increase in carbon concentration in the atmosphere is the result of emissions from the industrialized countries. In 2003, annual per capita carbon emissions in North America and Western Europe were 19.8 and 9 tCO_2, respectively, while they were 1.2 and 1 tCO_2 in South Asia and Central and East Africa, respectively. This supports the argument that the main initiative in cutting carbon emissions has to come from developed countries, because of both their historical responsibility and their continued high current volumes of emissions.

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[3] See Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, ibid.

[4] Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, ibid; Stern, ibid; Rosina Bierbaum and others, eds., "Confronting climate change: avoiding the unmanageable and managing the unavoidable", a new report prepared by the Scientific Expert Group of Climate Change and Sustainable Development for the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. 2007; Paul Baer, "The worth of an ice sheet: a critique of the treatment of catastrophic impacts in the Stern review", www.ecoequity.org/docs/WorthOfAnIceSheet.pdf.

[5] It may be noted that the difference between the earth's current temperature and that during the last ice age is only 5° C.

C. Policy responses so far

9. The volume of carbon emissions depends on four factors: population size, per capita income, energy intensity (energy use per unit of gross domestic product (GDP)), and carbon intensity (carbon emissions per unit of energy consumption). There is some scope of action with respect to each of these factors. For example, efforts may be made to bring the global population more in line with the carrying capacity of the earth. Developed countries may need to focus much more on the quality of growth rather than just the quantity. Alternative settlement and consumption patterns in these countries can probably lead to a more satisfying life even at current or somewhat reduced income levels. Changes in production and consumption patterns may help reduce the energy intensity of income. The most promising area of action, however, relates to the carbon intensity of energy. Many technologies for low- and non-carbon energy generation are already available in developed countries.[6]

10. In 1992, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in article 2, set the goal of stabilizing the GHG concentration at a level that would allow development to proceed in a sustainable manner. Following up on this goal, the Kyoto Protocol of 1997 focused on reduction of GHG emissions by the developed countries (the annex I Parties). According to the Protocol, these countries were committed to reduce their emissions by 5.2 per cent, relative to the level in 1990, over the period from 1997 to 2008-2012. The Protocol refrained from imposing emission limits on developing countries in view of their (a) negligible historical role in the creation of the GHG concentrations, (b) current relatively low levels of total emissions, particularly per capita emissions, and (c) urgent need to grow fast in order to deal with the problems of poverty. The Kyoto Protocol developed so-called flexible instruments for realizing GHG emissions reductions in efficient ways, including carbon trading and the Clean Development Mechanism. These instruments were also supposed to create some link between the climate change related efforts of developed and developing countries.

11. Unfortunately, even the modest targets of the Kyoto Protocol are not being fulfilled. Instead of decreasing, global CO_2 emissions actually increased by 17 per cent between 1990 and 2003, from 22 to 26 $GtCO_2$.[7] The efforts of developed countries to reduce emissions domestically have proved inadequate. Carbon trading is not proving to be as effective and suitable a policy instrument as was expected. The Clean Development Mechanism often seems to be used by developed countries to avoid deeper changes in their own production and consumption patterns. Overall, the Kyoto Protocol was a step in the right direction, though important parties have still to sign and ratify it. However, given the urgency of the challenge faced, the Kyoto Protocol remains an inadequate and limited mitigation response.

12. In addition to the mitigation efforts envisaged by the Kyoto Protocol, there have been some efforts at adaptation. Several funds have been set up to promote adaptation measures at the national level, particularly in developing countries. The Global Environment Facility is one example and provides about $50 million per

[6] See S. Pacala and R. Socolow, "Stabilization wedges: solving the climate problem for the next 50 years with current technologies", *Science*, 305: 968-972; Stern, ibid.; and Bierbaum and others, ibid.

[7] $GtCO_2$ refers to gigaton of carbon dioxide; a gigaton is equal to 1 billion metric tons.

year for building capacity for adaptation. However, all together, the adaptation-oriented measures remain inadequate in comparison with the challenges faced.

D. Sustainable development: the way to the future

13. In the long run, mankind may want to go beyond the stabilization goal of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and strive to reverse the warming that has taken place since industrialization. The measures taken so far appear to be targeted to modifying behaviour only at the margin, whereas the challenge requires much more fundamental change, with an entirely different level of motivation and effort.

14. Developed countries have to continue to take the initiative and play the major role in confronting the threat of climate change because of both their historic responsibility and their present capability to reduce emissions. Several lines along which future efforts in these countries may proceed are as follows:

(a) Wider and deeper recognition that climate change threatens the sustainability of life and societies in all countries;

(b) Greater awareness that human intervention in the form of carbon emissions is the main cause of climate change, and that deep reductions in such emissions are necessary to arrest the process of climate change;

(c) Recognition that the current lifestyle and consumption pattern of developed countries (as well as those of the rich in developing countries) are not sustainable, and fundamental changes are required if carbon emissions are to be brought down to the desired level. An outline of such changes needs to be developed and a societal agreement reached about this outline. The suggested changes should reflect the fact that developed countries may now focus more on the quality and long-run sustainability of life rather than on further augmentation of material possessions without regard to the climate consequences;

(d) Forging an extensive partnership between Governments and the private sector to implement the agreed outline and bring about the necessary changes in infrastructure and industrial production, as well as in developing and deploying the technologies necessary. Developed countries may launch a massive effort at further development and deployment of these technologies;

(e) A renewed commitment towards helping developing countries to develop quickly and to do so in a way that ensures sustainability and helps confront, by adaptation, the dangers of climate change.

15. Developed countries should, therefore, immediately start working on post-Kyoto steps that aim at deep cuts in carbon emissions through appropriate regulatory measures and do not rely too much on flexible mechanisms that have not proven that effective so far. Further, the post-Kyoto arrangement should bring development and climate change together and accord a more central place to the twin challenge of faster and decarbonized growth faced by developing countries. Developed countries, therefore, have a role to play in providing support, both technological and financial, to developing countries in order for them to engage in mitigative activities beyond those that would have immediate development relevance.

16. Developing countries need to realize that it is also in their interest to engage in mitigation on developmental grounds and, in the case of new and emerging large-scale emitters among them, for reasons related to climate change directly. They can do so by decarbonizing their growth as much as possible. In recent years, GHG emissions by some developing countries have increased at a faster rate than the world average. While a goal of per capita emissions parity between developed and developing countries may be justifiable on some grounds, the danger is that attempts by developing countries to achieve such parity, and even to reach the current world average, will accelerate the growth of GHG emissions and, thereby, the likelihood of the earth becoming "a sinking ship".

17. It is encouraging that many developing countries are drawing up plans that involve measures directed at not only adaptation but also mitigation. These include afforestation efforts in which grass-roots organizations often play an important role. However, overall the adaptation measures taken by developing countries are still inadequate.

18. The challenge for developing countries is to achieve fast economic growth while adding the least possible amount of GHGs to the atmosphere. Meeting this challenge calls for a vast endeavour that includes: (a) research to formulate the appropriate development strategy; (b) formation of national consensus on the strategy adopted; (c) mobilization of the necessary domestic and external resources; and (d) actual implementation of the strategy. Such a development strategy has to focus on the interlinkages between growth, poverty and climate change and will have to give an important role to the poor as actor and not treat them just as a target group recipient of action by others. The policy instruments to be used by the strategy may include direct investment in research and extension, large-scale public works, conventional regulation, subsidy and taxation, redistribution mechanisms, differential taxation, subsidy schemes favouring the poor, non-trading market mechanisms, community development, credit and microcredit programmes, development of climate-friendly institutions and legal action, ideally all backed and monitored by citizens and evaluated against short- and long-term targets. The desired development strategy will need to consider policies that pertain to population and reproductive health, land use, and energy (including deployment of renewable energy, energy security, energy conservation, and energy efficiency).

19. Further analysis of the linkage between poverty and climate change may have implications for concepts and indicators of vulnerability, especially those pertaining to least developed countries.

E. New partnership towards sustainable development

20. Confronting climate change and sustaining development requires a new partnership between developed and developing countries. The developed countries cannot avoid disruptions caused by climate change that would result if the developing countries run full steam towards industrialized country levels of per capita carbon emissions. The developing countries, on the other hand, cannot engage in a decarbonized or less carbonized growth process without adequate technological and financial support from the developed countries.

21. In devising climate-friendly technologies, the developed countries have to be attentive to their applicability in developing countries too. In addition to serving the

public cause of mitigation, this makes sense business wise, because by increasing the size of the market, it may make more of such technologies commercially viable. However, short-run profitability should not stand in the way of the development and deployment of climate-friendly technologies. Similarly, intellectual property rights should not act as a hindrance to dissemination, transfer, adaptation and actual deployment of climate-friendly technologies in developing countries.

22. Developed countries also need to provide the necessary technical support so that developing countries can adapt and put these technologies into use. Developing countries themselves also need to upgrade their national technological capability both to adapt the climate-friendly technologies available in the developed countries and to develop their own climate-friendly technologies that are suitable to their unique conditions.

23. Given that developing countries often lack resources to address their urgent investment needs, they require additional resources to implement the less-carbonized or decarbonized development measures. Thus, mechanisms need to be identified to enable developing countries to follow more climate-friendly development trajectories. These may include financial assistance in addition to official development assistance or innovative international financing schemes such as carbon, or GHG, taxation.

24. The partnership between developed and developing countries in confronting climate change must be viewed neither as a matter of just giving and receiving aid, nor as a matter of intergovernmental transactions. The scope of necessary action is so vast that many different dimensions and channels of action may be envisaged that involve a role for Governments, private companies, individual entrepreneurs, civic and non-governmental organizations, professional bodies and others.

F. Conclusions and recommendations

25. Climate change is already adversely affecting socio-economic development, especially in the most vulnerable developing countries, and the earth is only a few decades away from crossing the threshold levels of temperature rise beyond which dramatic impacts are to be expected.

26. The response to the climate change threat so far has been inadequate, and there is an urgent need for raising the mitigation and adaptation efforts to an entirely different level. The Kyoto Protocol, despite the commendable effort, ultimately did very little to tackle the problem. Any post-Kyoto arrangement has to go far beyond in order to reflect properly the enormity and the urgency of the problem.

27. While the Kyoto Protocol followed a one-track approach focusing on marginal reduction of emissions by developed countries and treating developing countries as largely onlookers, post-Kyoto arrangements have to adopt a simultaneous two-track approach, the first of which will aim at very deep cuts in emissions by developed countries and the second of which will provide a more central role to developing countries by enabling them both to grow faster and to make the growth as less-carbonized and decarbonized as possible through successful adoption and implementation of appropriate climate-friendly development strategies with the necessary technological and financial cooperation from developed countries.

28. The Economic and Social Council may contribute to the post-Kyoto process by moving up the climate change issue in the agenda of all of its functional commissions, the regional commissions and other organizations and departments that are under its aegis.

29. The Council may also contribute to the post-Kyoto process by providing within its new architecture a platform for an overarching and sustained policy dialogue between climate and development, bringing together representatives of different United Nations agencies, national ministries (including those of economics, finance, trade and industry), the private sector and other stakeholders, including the poor, indigenous people and women, with a stake in the two policy domains, climate and development.

30. The Council may initiate a process of future revision of the Millennium Development Goals so that the danger of climate change and its overshadowing impact on all other development issues find appropriate reflection.

31. The Council may consider inviting the Committee for Development Policy to provide the leadership in the process of knowledge accumulation, analysis, and inference-drawing that is necessary in order to develop an appropriate conceptual and policy framework geared to integration of the goals of development and arresting climate change.

Chapter III
Strengthening the international partnership for effective poverty reduction

1. Many of the least developed countries, especially those in Africa, are struggling to meet the objective of reducing poverty and hunger as outlined in the first of the Millennium Development Goals. Despite the international commitment to poverty reduction, the present framework for global partnerships towards this goal, using poverty reduction strategy papers as the main instrument, appears to be neither adequate nor effective. Hence, to attain the Millennium Development Goals, international partners will need to take decisive steps to improve both the strategic framework and the working partnerships that define the approach to poverty reduction.

2. Effective national strategies are a critical requirement for poverty reduction. These strategies need to be initiated by countries themselves and should be comprehensive in their scope and long-term in orientation. A major requirement of any effective framework is to increase the space for national ownership in initiating and implementing development strategies.

3. These basic notions were accepted in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, in which the principles of harmonization and alignment of aid delivery were the basis for a new framework of mutual accountability. Yet, this is not sufficient for arriving at more effective poverty reduction strategies. The Committee notes that the international community is faced with additional and compelling challenges. An overriding challenge is climate change, as argued in chapter II above. Efforts to mitigate global warming must be integral to any poverty reduction strategy. There is need for pro-poor, but also sustainable ("pro-green") growth promoted in partnership with the world's poor.

4. The present chapter examines the deficiencies of the poverty reduction strategy process. On this basis, the Committee proposes a number of directions for reforming international partnerships that would contribute to improved results.

A. Efficacy of poverty reduction strategy papers and their impact on poverty reduction

5. The poverty reduction strategy papers, which were introduced in 1999 as a new approach to lending by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have multiple objectives: (a) to permit the release of funds from the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC); (b) to increase aid effectiveness; (c) to contribute to the reduction of poverty and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; and (d) to do so with national ownership and be country-driven. The Committee for Development Policy discussed to what extent the poverty reduction strategy papers have achieved these objectives and the problems that have prevented the full realization of these objectives.

6. *Release of HIPC funds*. This objective has been met. By January 2007, 30 countries were receiving debt relief under the initiatives, with potential debt relief worth over US$ 63 billion in 2005 net present value terms if all creditors participate. The process seems to have been an effective vehicle for debt relief.

7. *Aid effectiveness*. The poverty reduction strategy process has unified donors in the area of poverty reduction, reducing the transaction costs associated with aid transfers to the recipient country. There have been greater harmonization and alignment of aid deliveries. Despite such improvements serious problems remain about the predictability of aid flows and the lack of alignment with the objectives of the recipient country.

8. *Poverty reduction*. The poverty reduction strategy papers do not appear to have achieved substantial poverty reduction. At best they have contributed to a mild improvement compared with previous stagnation. This holds in particular for sub-Saharan Africa.

9. *Country ownership*. True national ownership of development strategies, that is, when the Governments design their own strategies, with appropriate consultation of local agents, has not been achieved.[1] This is due to three aspects of the process: (a) the international donor community tends to be too heavily involved in preparing documents, organizing consultation processes, etc.; (b) funds from donors in the poverty reduction strategy paper process are released with an implicit conditionality and, consequently, recipient countries tend to anticipate and mould proposals to what the donors want to hear; and (c) the IMF contribution (via the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility) involves strict macroeconomic policy conditions, as in the of earlier structural adjustment programmes.

10. The greatest improvements in poverty reduction appear to have been achieved in countries with well-defined national development strategies, not with policies and processes closely related to poverty reduction strategy papers. Investment-driven economic growth has been responsible for substantial poverty reduction in countries such as China, India, Malaysia and Viet Nam. A new international partnership to support poverty reduction needs to abandon restrictive conditionality and to expand the scope for policy choice. This involves a reform of the process in order to secure true national ownership, as agreed in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.

B. The country context

11. The development of effective national strategies for poverty reduction requires national accountability and national capacity. Ideally, such strategies will be developed through fully accountable democratic systems. However, the development of such accountability is itself a process to be developed and improved along with other changes. Reforms of legal systems, education, etc. should be done in a way that strengthens the capacity of the country to develop national

[1] The strong influence of donors over the programme is evidenced by the content of poverty reduction strategy papers. Various studies of completed poverty reduction strategy papers showed no fundamental departure from the kind of economic policy advice provided under the previous HIPC Initiative and structural adjustment programmes of the past. See, for instance, Frances Stewart and Michael Wang, "Poverty reduction strategy papers within the human rights perspective" in P. Alston and M. Robinson (eds.), *Human rights and development* (Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2005); and, Rob Vos and Maritza Cabezas, *Illusions and disillusions with pro-poor growth: poverty reduction strategies in Bolivia, Honduras and Nicaragua*, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) Studies No. 17 (Stockholm, SIDA, 2005).

development strategies, to restructure the domestic economy and to deal effectively with development partners.

C. The global partnership

12. The Committee for Development Policy recognizes that effective global partnership should be the organizing principle for development assistance for achieving the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed goals. Moreover, the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness agreed on the need to support national development strategies. What is required is to make these objectives a reality by increasing the space for policy choices through a reduction in the policy conditionality associated with external financial support, assisting recipient countries to make the most effective use of the policy choices they have, diversifying sources of finance, and making the trading system more conducive to growth and poverty reduction.

13. For effective growth and poverty reduction, countries need to be able to choose from a range of policies, the national policy space, in accordance with their economic, social and cultural conditions. The partnership framework needs to enhance national policy space by aligning the modality of the international partnership with truly national strategies. Moreover, monetary and fiscal benchmarks agreed between the donor and recipient should not lead to the enforced sterilization of available aid and domestic resources, or bar the recipient's access to foreign borrowing for trade or productive investments on mechanically applied considerations of debt sustainability.

14. Poverty reduction strategies must be for long-term, sustainable improvements in the welfare of the poor. It is important to ensure that recipient countries have the space and freedom to choose different sets of macro and sectoral policies tailored to their needs and institutional context. Responsible counter-cyclical macroeconomic policies have proven effective for sustainable growth. Policies are also needed to encourage economic diversification; redistribution of productive assets, such as land for livelihoods and homesteads, to the poor and especially to women; employment creation; investment in health and education; and provision of infrastructure and basic social security for the poor.[2]

15. Poverty reduction is not only about improving the incomes of the poor, but importantly also about building human capabilities for sustained improvement in welfare, human dignity and empowerment. Long-term investment in institutional development, which includes legislation for transparency, more information to enforce human rights, and support for group formation among the poor should be an important part of poverty-reducing strategies.

16. In view of the critical threat of global warming, policies towards poverty reduction should systematically take this factor into account, especially in the light of the overwhelming threat that this presents to vulnerable economies. This is a new area on which more research is needed to design appropriate strategies, instruments, technologies and global partnerships.

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[2] See for instance, United Nations, *World economic and social survey 2006: diverging growth and development* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.II.C.1).

D. Financing development

17. Both development assistance and private investment must increase if countries are to achieve the agreed goals in poverty reduction. A study by the Economic Commission for Africa[3] indicates that African countries need to grow by at least 7 per cent to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. This is also the target adopted by the New Partnership for Africa's Development. One of the key elements in achieving such high growth is to realize significant increases in domestic investment, based on both enhanced external financing and strengthened domestic resource mobilization, as envisaged in the Monterrey Consensus.

18. Increased diversification of financing sources is likely to enhance a country's policy freedom. The emergence of new aid donors, resources from regional development banks, private investment and the effective use of remittances can provide substantial additional resources. Trade revenue can be another significant source of development finance. The international community needs to ensure that negotiations of the Doha Round of the World Trade Organization (WTO) are consistent with poverty reduction objectives and trade policy does not conflict with development objectives and development cooperation priorities. The aid for trade provisions and the Enhanced Integrated Framework are of help in this respect, but only when accompanied by appropriate scheduling of trade liberalization to give countries the time and policy space to remove supply constraints and build their export capacity.

E. The trading environment and poverty reduction

19. Millennium Development Goal 8 recognizes the importance of achieving an open and fair multilateral trading system, but reforms are required to reduce the existing asymmetries in the rules of the system. Among the most significant problems are the distortions in global agricultural trade and production due to the fact that developed countries maintain high tariffs and non-tariff barriers on selected agricultural products of export interest to developing countries, while maintaining high export subsidies and domestic support for their own producers.

20. Agricultural subsidies in developed countries lower farm income in developing countries and contribute to poverty in several ways, as they (a) reduce the prospects of developing countries gaining access to developed countries' markets; (b) prevent developing countries from selling their products in third markets; and (c) affect producers in developing countries as these face competition from artificially cheapened imports of farm products. The Committee for Development Policy welcomes the decision at the WTO Hong Kong Ministerial Conference, held in December 2005, to eliminate agricultural export subsidies by 2012 and endorses the adoption of a road map towards their elimination, but even more important is that agreement is reached on significant and effective reductions in domestic agricultural support in developed countries.

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[3] Economic Commission for Africa, *Economic report on Africa 1999: the challenge of poverty reduction and sustainability* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.99.II.K.4), available from http://www.uneca.org/eca_resources/publications/espd/economic_report_1999.htm.

21. Many developing countries have liberalized their trade partly in response to policy conditions linked to multilateral and bilateral loans and aid flows, WTO obligations, and bilateral and regional trade agreements. When this is coupled with continued domestic support to producers in developed countries, the result for many developing countries is an influx of cheap imports that displace the products of small farmers and may lead to deindustrialization in developing countries, as has been reported in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. It is important that the Doha Round of WTO and the bilateral agreements do not result in a worsening of this trend.

22. The implementation of the intellectual property rights rules of WTO and of some bilateral trade agreements has also resulted in higher medicine costs in developing countries. Inappropriate intellectual property rights rules may impact negatively on farmers' rights to save and exchange seeds, and on the prices of agricultural inputs. Reforms are needed at the international level to deal with the increasingly recognized problem of biopiracy, i.e. the misappropriation, through patenting, of the biological resources of developing countries and the traditional knowledge associated with these resources.

F. New partnerships

23. Alongside reshaping international partnerships, within-country partnerships are also important. Countries have a responsibility to build internal partnerships between government and civil society, thereby strengthening the legitimacy of national policy and empowering their dealings with international partners.

24. Migrant workers from developing countries may also prove to be effective partners in the development process, not only in terms of providing remittances, but also as a source of technical and management expertise as well as investment funds to improve social and economic welfare.

G. Recommendations

25. The Committee for Development Policy recognizes that progress has been made towards developing a global partnership in support of national poverty reduction strategies. Poverty reduction strategy papers have made some contribution to improving aid effectiveness by unifying donors in support of poverty eradication and accelerating the release of HIPC funds. At the same time, the process has revealed limitations, especially in two areas. First, it has not helped the recipients in strengthening national ownership in design and implementation of development strategies. Second, the conditionalities associated with the process have restricted the range of policies designed to enhance pro-poor and pro-green growth.

26. The Committee, therefore, recommends the Economic and Social Council to consider and promote the following actions to improve global partnerships for poverty eradication by attaching less stringent conditionalities and by giving more policy space to recipient countries:

(a) First, in its special high-level meetings with international financial and trade institutions and the Development Cooperation Forum, the Council should facilitate dialogue among its member States, and between them and IMF and the

World Bank on the best ways of improving the existing poverty reduction strategy papers. These discussions should also examine the possibilities of an alternative process that would strengthen national initiatives for building and implementing effective poverty reduction strategies, and for enhancing true ownership of such strategies by recipient countries. The dialogue would include not only countries under the HIPC Initiative, but also middle-income countries, including those which have been successful in reducing poverty. Through this process, the Council would encourage the strengthening of recipient countries' capacity to undertake their own poverty reduction policies;

(b) Second, the Council, through its annual ministerial reviews, should closely monitor the implementation of the existing and improved poverty reduction strategy papers and the national development strategies advocated in the United Nations system, in order to identify the most effective modality of international partnership for achieving the Millennium Development Goals;

(c) Third, the Council should closely monitor, through the Development Cooperation Forum, the fulfilment of the commitments endorsed by the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, as a means of improving the framework for international partnership, while leaving greater policy space for developing countries within a framework of mutual accountability;

(d) Fourth, the Council should urge its members to ensure that completion of the Doha Round of WTO is consistent with the core objectives of the international development agenda, especially with regard to eliminating agricultural subsidies in developed countries, speeding up support to developing countries for improving production and trading capacity, and reforming the rules for intellectual property rights. Similarly, bilateral and regional trade negotiations between developed and developing countries and among neighbouring developing countries should be pro-development;

(e) Fifth, climate change poses an additional challenge to poverty reduction. This challenge is largest for the poor in least developed countries and the small island developing countries. The Committee recommends that the Council should give much greater prominence to this challenge in its international development agenda, as suggested in chapter II above.

Chapter IV

Procedures for inclusion of countries in and graduation from the list of least developed countries and the interactions with the countries concerned

A. Introduction

1. The category of least developed countries was established by the United Nations in the early 1970s to draw the attention of the international community to the situation in low-income countries most suffering from structural handicaps to growth and development.

2. The importance of the least developed country category is that certain benefits follow from least developed country status.[1] The benefits comprise special treatment in three regards: trade, development financing, and technical cooperation.[2]

3. Decisions on inclusions in and graduations from the list of least developed countries are made by the General Assembly. Since 1991, the normal preparation for such decisions is that the Committee for Development Policy conducts triennial reviews and makes recommendations for inclusions and graduations. The recommendations are submitted to the Economic and Social Council, which acts upon the recommendation for each country.

4. The recommendations of the Committee for Development Policy with regard to inclusion and graduation are based on criteria and methodology developed by the Committee and endorsed by the Economic and Social Council. The inclusion and graduation criteria, which are the subject of separate reviews for possible refinements, are not discussed here. The most recent review was conducted in 2005,[3] one year before the latest triennial review of the list in 2006.

5. There is a deliberate asymmetry between inclusion and graduation decisions. When found eligible for inclusion by the Committee, a country will be entitled to least developed country status immediately after approval by the General Assembly. On the other hand, for graduation a country needs to be found eligible by the Committee at two consecutive triennial reviews. Countries found eligible and then three years later confirmed for graduation lose least developed country status.

6. Apart from new States, candidates for inclusion are low-income countries typically with a level of development that has deteriorated for one reason or another with regard to the criteria applied by the Committee. It is only when the

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[1] The agreed framework within which development partners in the international community promote and coordinate economic and social development of least developed countries can be found in document A/CONF.191/11, available at the UNCTAD website at http://www.unctad.org/e/ docs//aconf191d11.en.pdf (accessed March 2007).

[2] See the report of the Secretary-General on formulating a smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from least developed country status, "Benefits associated with least developed country status", chap. I (E/2004/94), for a comprehensive report on trade preferences, official development assistance, technical assistance and other support granted to least developed countries by development partners in the international community.

[3] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Supplement No. 33* (E/2005/33), chap. IV, sects. B and C.

deterioration is deemed structural rather than transitory that the country is considered eligible to be included in the list of least developed countries.

7. Graduation countries are typically countries with income well above the low-income threshold and which, over time, have achieved some measure of progress in overcoming their structural handicaps, as evidenced by a record of sustained economic and social development.

8. Countries under consideration by the Committee for either inclusion or graduation may contest the findings of the Committee. The interaction between the Committee and countries in such situations, which can only comprise exchange of information, has always been a concern of the Committee. However, the timing and structure of such exchange have not been explicitly formalized until now.

9. The aim of this report is to clarify and improve the procedures regarding the process of inclusion and graduation, especially the information exchanges between the Committee and the countries concerned within the overall time frame of the inclusion and graduation procedures. After the 2006 triennial review, it was determined that the procedures in effect could be improved by introducing a more structured approach to consultations with the countries under review. Also, for both inclusions and graduations, the report proposes an enhancement of the information basis for the deliberations of the Committee.

B. Preparation of the triennial review

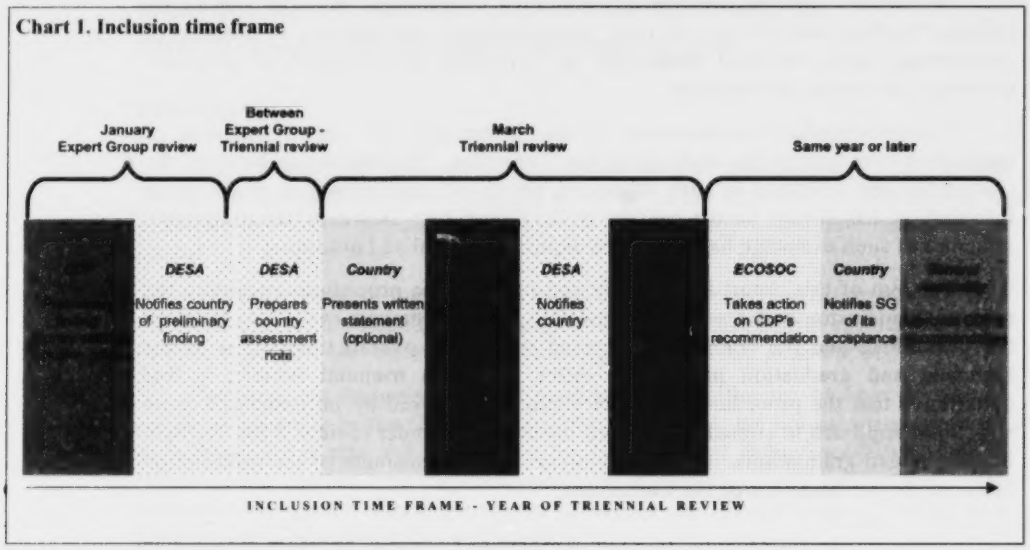
10. The triennial review of the list of least developed countries starts with a detailed analysis of economic and social conditions in the countries by a subcommittee of members of the Committee for Development Policy, convened as an expert group meeting, which meets 2 to 3 months before the triennial review. The group of experts applies the criteria (the statistical indicators and agreed methodology for this purpose) as amended and updated at the previous meeting of the Committee to assess eligibility for inclusion and graduation.

11. The activities and the normal time schedule leading to inclusion into or graduation from the list of least developed countries are summarized in charts 1 and 2 below and are described in the sections that follow.

C. The inclusion procedure

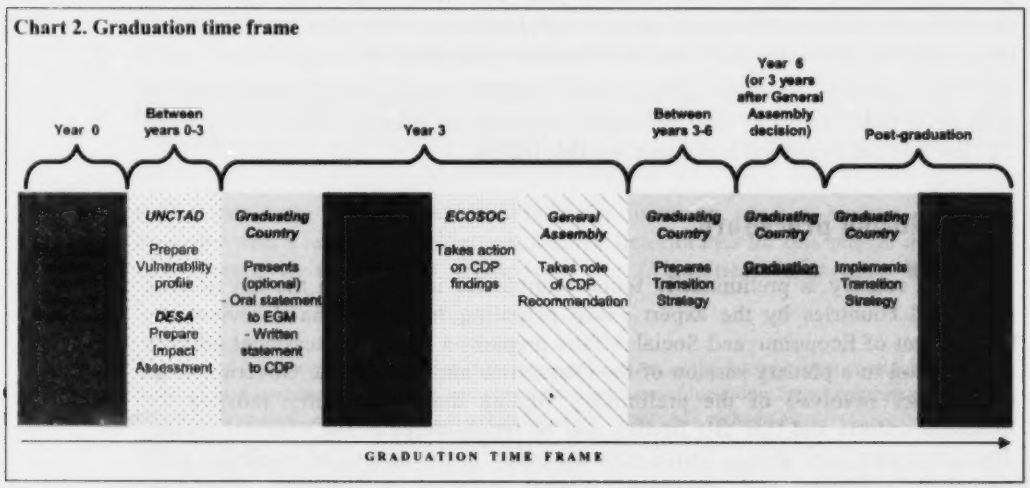
12. If a country is preliminarily found eligible for inclusion in the list of least developed countries by the expert group preparing for the triennial review, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs prepares a country assessment note for presentation to a plenary session of the Committee and notifies the Government of the country involved of the preliminary finding that the country satisfies the inclusion criteria and that this finding will be reconsidered at the triennial review. The assessment note should corroborate the basis for the finding of eligibility from statistical evidence and incorporate other relevant information. Particular consideration should be given to the reasons for recent deterioration of economic and social conditions in the country in order to determine whether the deterioration is due to structural or transitory factors.

Chart 1
Inclusion time frame



CDP — Committee for Development Policy
DESA — Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Chart 2
Graduation time frame



CDP — Committee for Development Policy
UNCTAD — United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

13. The assessment note will be transmitted to the country, which will have the opportunity to produce a written statement for the plenary meeting, including the possibility of expressing its objection in principle to being added to the list of least developed countries.

14. If the plenary of the Committee confirms the country's eligibility for inclusion at the triennial review, the country will be notified by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to this effect. If the country does not express a formal objection to inclusion in the list of least developed countries, the Committee, in its report to the Council, will recommend the country's inclusion in the list of least developed countries. If the country has expressed a formal objection, the finding of eligibility will be recorded in the report, as well as the country's objection to being included in the list of least developed countries.

15. If the Council endorses the recommendation, and if the country has notified its acceptance to the Secretary-General, the General Assembly adds the country to the list of least developed countries whenever it approves the recommendation. It has been the practice that the Assembly does not include a country in the list without its consent.

D. The graduation procedure

16. Graduation from least developed country status occurs according to the procedure specified in General Assembly resolution 59/209, paragraphs 3 (a)-(e). The triennial meeting of the Committee for Development Policy reviews all least developed countries with regard to eligibility for graduation. The findings of countries eligible for graduation for the first time will be submitted to the Economic and Social Council. Countries found eligible for the second time are recommended for graduation.

17. After the findings of eligibility for graduation for the first time, the country will be notified and a vulnerability profile of the country will be prepared by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), as stated in Assembly resolution 59/209, paragraph 3 (b), and made available to the expert group which meets before the subsequent triennial review. The vulnerability profile was defined by the Committee in 1999 as a document that would assess the impact of external economic and natural shocks on the economic performance and economic structure of the country under review.[4] The vulnerability profile might also include additional information, such as ecological fragility and other possible structural handicaps not captured in the statistical indicators of the country.

18. The Committee will request the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to prepare an ex-ante impact assessment of the likely consequences of graduation for the country's economic growth and development and potential risk factors, or gains, that the country may face after graduation.

19. Countries found eligible for the first time will be provided with the vulnerability profile and the ex-ante impact assessment in the year prior to the next triennial review. These countries will be given an opportunity to make an oral

[4] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Supplement No. 13* (E/1999/33), chap. III, para. 123.

presentation at the expert group meeting prior to this triennial review, and also to submit a written statement to the plenary of the Committee at the triennial meeting.

20. If the country meets the graduation criteria at the second triennial review, the Committee will recommend graduation of the country from the list of least developed countries in its report to the Council. If the Council endorses the recommendation, graduation of the country will take effect three years after the General Assembly takes note of the recommendation.

21. During the three-year period before graduation takes effect, any country for which graduation has been decided will be offered United Nations support to prepare a transition strategy, in cooperation with development partners, to facilitate a smooth transition from least developed country status, as indicated by Assembly resolution 59/209, paragraph 4. As requested in paragraph 12 of that resolution, the Committee will continue to monitor development progress in countries that graduate.

E. The proposed procedure and past practice

22. The Committee for Development Policy considers that the procedures indicated in sections B-D above are consistent with the framework laid out in General Assembly resolution 59/209 and earlier resolutions related to the work of the Committee. This more detailed presentation of the procedures is intended to clarify all the steps needed to enhance the transparency of the process. In four aspects the procedures constitute a refinement of the practice followed in the past. These four aspects are:

(a) Prompt notification of the country's possible eligibility for inclusion and allowance for presentation of a written statement to the plenary of the Committee as soon as a preliminary determination of the country's eligibility has been made (paragraph 12 above);

(b) Allowing the country to communicate its intention to accept or decline inclusion in the list of least developed countries before the Committee makes its recommendation for inclusion (paragraph 14);

(c) Preparation of an ex-ante impact assessment study for possible graduating countries, which should serve as a supplement to the required vulnerability profile and provide additional information to the Committee for consideration at the second triennial review (paragraph 18);

(d) Additional provisions for possible graduating countries to make oral presentations to the expert group meeting preparing for the second triennial review (after a first finding of eligibility) and written statements to the plenary of the Committee at the triennial review (paragraph 19).

F. Recommendation

23. The Committee for Development Policy has proposed additional guidelines for countries to be included in or graduated from the list of least developed countries in order to clarify the existing procedures and enhance their transparency. The Committee requests the Economic and Social Council to endorse these guidelines as a further clarification of the framework laid out in General Assembly resolution 59/209 and earlier resolutions related to the work of the Committee in this respect.

Chapter V
Future work of the Committee for Development Policy

1. The Committee for Development Policy welcomed the opportunity to contribute to the work of the Economic and Social Council and reaffirmed its willingness to continue to do so. It held the view that preparatory work was necessary prior to the session of the Committee if the Council was to obtain full value from its efforts. In this respect, the Committee considered it important that the Council should continue to be in a position to adhere to its decision to make requests with regard to the Committee agenda at its mid-year substantive session or soon thereafter. The Committee also stressed the need to have more effective input into the policy process, including the presentation of its report to the Council at its substantive sessions, as well as meaningful contributions to the Development Cooperation Forum.

2. The Committee held the view that the Economic and Social Council could make more effective use of its expertise. This issue had been addressed in a joint meeting between the bureaux of the Council and the Committee and the conclusion was reached that the Committee should take on a stronger role as a think tank for the Council, contributing to the setting and evaluation of the international development agenda.

3. For its forthcoming session, to be held in 2008, the Committee proposed to continue considering, and providing an in-depth analysis of, the theme of climate change and sustainable development. Undertaking such analysis could be supported by ongoing research activities on the linkages and synergies between climate change and development in order to further elaborate a more detailed policy framework for an international partnership towards an effective response to climate change.

4. The Committee agreed to continue its work on the methodology used in recent reviews and to undertake, for its next session in 2008, a review of the criteria for the identification of least developed countries, in preparation for the triennial review in 2009. The Committee also decided to establish guidelines to monitor the progress of graduated countries as provided for in General Assembly resolution 59/209.

5. Provided that the Economic and Social Council continues to consider a theme related to the Millennium Development Goals for its annual ministerial review in 2008, the Committee would be in a position to examine the subject matter and present an analysis on such theme as an input to the review.

6. The Committee requested the secretariat of the Committee for Development Policy for a briefing, during its session in 2008, on the progress achieved on its United Nations Development Account project on guidelines to assist least developed countries in optimizing the use of benefits related to the status of the least developed countries. This might also include suggestions for better recognition of the category.

7. The Committee also proposed to undertake further improvements on the dissemination of its work, including the preparation of a manual explaining the criteria and procedures for identifying, inclusion and graduating countries, and providing detailed data on the indicators used.

Chapter VI
Organization of the session

1. The Committee for Development Policy held its ninth session at United Nations Headquarters from 19 to 23 March 2007. Twenty members of the Committee, as well as observers for several organizations within the United Nations system, attended the session. The list of participants is contained in annex I.

2. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat provided substantive services for the session. The Chairperson of the Committee opened the session and welcomed the participants. The Director of the Development Policy and Analysis Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs gave a historical overview of the Committee for Development Policy and briefed the participants on the work of the Committee. Subsequently, the President of the Economic and Social Council addressed the Committee and outlined the areas in which the Committee could assist the Council in strengthening its role in the international development process. The Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs introduced his views about the subject matters addressed by the Committee and introduced possible questions for discussion. The President of the Council and the Under-Secretary-General both stressed the important role the Committee should play in assessing the broader United Nations development agenda, especially by signalling new and emerging issues relevant for the future of that agenda and which the Economic and Social Council could consider. The President of the Council also emphasized that the Committee could contribute to the annual ministerial review by assessing the progress of the follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, especially the progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

3. In response to Economic and Social Council decision 2007/212, the Committee also examined the issues raised by the Ambassador of Samoa regarding the least developed country status of Samoa. The report of the Committee on this subject has been circulated separately.[1]

4. The Committee was briefed by the Ambassador of Cape Verde on the country's transition strategy following its impending graduation from the list of least developed countries.

5. The agenda for the ninth session and the list of documents before the Committee are contained in annexes II and III, respectively.

[1] E/2007/12.

Annex I

List of participants

1. The following members of the Committee attended the session:

Bina Agarwal
Lourdes Arizpe
Tariq Banuri
Albert Binger
Olav Bjerkholt
Kwesi Botchwey
Gui-Ying Cao
Stanisława Golinowska
Patrick Guillaumont
Philippe Hein
Hiroya Ichikawa
Willene Johnson
Martin Khor
Hans Opschoor
Suchitra Punyaratabandhu
Fatima Sadiqi
Frances Stewart
Milica Uvalic
Anatoly Vishnevsky
Samuel Wangwe

2. The following organizations, bodies, agencies, programmes and funds of the United Nations system were invited to the session:

Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
Economic Commission for Africa
Economic Commission for Europe
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
International Labour Organization
International Monetary Fund
Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
Office of the Special Adviser on Africa
United Nations Children's Fund
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
United Nations Development Programme
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
United Nations Environment Programme
United Nations Industrial Development Organization
United Nations Institute for Training and Research
United Nations Population Fund
United Nations University
World Bank
World Food Programme
World Health Organization
World Trade Organization

Annex II

Agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
2. Working methods and establishment of the Bureau of the Committee.
3. Work of the Committee on least developed countries.
4. Guidelines on procedures for adding newly identified countries to the list of least developed countries and for the graduation of countries from the list.
5. Climate change and sustainable development for the deliberations of the Economic and Social Council and other international forums.
6. Theme of the annual ministerial review: "Strengthening global partnership for poverty alleviation".
7. Presentation by Samoa followed by discussion of the issues raised by Samoa.
8. Presentation by Cape Verde concerning its transition strategy.
9. Other matters.
10. Future work of the Committee.

Annex III

List of documents before the Committee at its ninth session

Document symbol	*Title or description*
CDP2007/PLEN/1	List of documents
CDP2007/PLEN/2	Agenda
CDP2007/PLEN/3	Subgroups
CDP2007/PLEN/4	Report of the Committee for Development Policy on the seventh session (E/2005/33)
CDP2007/PLEN/5	Report of the Committee for Development Policy on the eighth session (E/2006/33)
CDP2007/PLEN/6	Background note on procedures for adding newly identified countries to the list of least developed countries and for graduating least developed countries
CDP2007/PLEN/7	Economic and Social Council and General Assembly resolutions on smooth transition
CDP2007/PLEN/8	Graduation of Samoa from the list of least developed countries: background note prepared by the secretariat of the Committee
CDP2007/PLEN/9	Background document on climate change and sustainable development
CDP2007/PLEN/10	Background document on strengthening global partnership for poverty alleviation

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